

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 555

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USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 133

AUGUST 30, 1973.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT , UK (NI)

SUBJECT: HEATH'S STATEMENT ON NI.

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF HEATH STATEMENT MADE AUGUST 29 AT
CONCLUSION OF HIS TWO-DAY VISIT TO NORTHERN IRELAND:

BEGIN TEXT

MY MESSAGE TO YOU, THE PEOPLE OF NORTHERN IRELAND, TODAY IS
SIMPLE AND CLEAR.

IT IS THIS.

YOU NOW HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY OF RUNNING A LARGE PART OF YOUR
OWN AFFAIRS AGAIN. THE DANGER OF BOMBINGS AND SHOOTINGS, OF
POINTLESS INJURIES TO MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN, OF MINDLESS
MURDER, REMAINS.

MUCH PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE BY THE SECURITY FORCES IN ARDUOUS
CONDITIONS. THE ARMY WILL REMAIN TO CONTINUE THEIR WORK IN
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SUPPORT OF THE RUC UNTIL VIOLENCE IS OVERCOME. THE RUC WILL
BE STRENGTHENED AND EXPANDED TO PROVIDE AN EFFICIENT SERVICE,

ACCEPTABLE TO AND ACCEPTED BY ALL SECTIONS OF THE COMMUNITY
IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

BUT THE CALL FOR POLITICAL ACTION HAS COME FROM ALL SIDES.

THE NORTHERN IRELAND CONSTITUTION ACT IS NOW THE LAW OF THE LAND
AND YOU HAVE ELECTED YOUR REPRESENTATIVES. IT IS THEIR TASK TO
FORM AN EXECUTIVE TO TAKE OVER THE POWERS WHICH THE WESTMINSTER
PARLIAMENT HAS SHOWN ITSELF PREPARED TO HAND OVER TO THEM.

IT IS YOUR REPRESENTATIVES RESPONSIBILITY TO DO SO WITH ALL
SPEED.

FOR IF THE PEOPLE OF NORTHERN IRELAND WISH TO MANAGE THEIR DAY
TO DAY BUSINESS, AS I BELIEVE THEY DO, THERE CAN BE NO JUSTIFICATION
FOR DELAY.

AND IF POLITICAL ACTIVITY BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE
OF NORTHERN IRELAND IS ESSENTIAL FOR THE EVENTUAL DEFEAT OF
VIOLENCE, AS I BELIEVE IT IS, THEN EVERY DAY'S DELAY IS SETTING
UP AND WORKING THE NEW INSTITUTIONS CAN ONLY MEAN MORE LIVES LOST,
MORE MAIMED AND WOUNDED BY SENSELESS ATTACKS ON HARMLESS AND
GUILTLESS PEOPLE.

I AM PREPARED TO ASK FOR THE RECALL OF THE WESTMINSTER PARLIAMENT
THE VERY MOMENT PARTIES IN THE ASSEMBLY AGREE TO FORM THE EXECUTIVE.
IN THIS I HAVE THE SUPPORT OF THE TWO OTHER PARTY LEADERS AT
WESTMINSTER.

I REALISE FULL WELL THAT WE ARE ASKING MUCH OF THE PARTIES OF
THE ASSEMBLY TO WORK TOGETHER IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WHOLE
COMMUNITY OF NORTHERN IRELAND.

BUT I MUST TELL YOU QUITE FRANKLY THAT HAVING TAKEN THE NECESSARY
STEPS TO ENABLE A RESUMPTION OF THE POLITICAL LIFE OF NORTHERN
IRELAND, THE PEOPLE OF BRITAIN WILL NOT UNDERSTAND ANY RELUCTANCE
TO TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF IT.

ALTHOUGH AT THE MOMENT RESPONSIBILITY FOR SECURITY IS BEING KEPT
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AT WESTMINSTER, THE EXECUTIVE WILL OF COURSE BE ABLE TO DISCUSS
THESE PROBLEMS WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE WHO IS A MEMBER OF THE
UNITED KINGDOM CABINET AND SURELY THE OPPORTUNITY OF WORKING
TOGETHER OVER A WIDE FIELD OF OTHER MATTERS IS ONE WHICH THE
REPRESENTATIVES IN THE ASSEMBLY SHOULD SEIZE AT ONCE.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE GOVERNMENTS IN WESTMINSTER AND IN DUBLIN,
TOGETHER WITH THE NORTHERN IRELAND EXECUTIVE, CAN GET ON WITH
WORKING OUT THE MACHINERY, IN THE FORM OF DEVELOPING INSTITUTIONS,
TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE IRISH DIMENSION TO WHICH HER

MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT HAS PLEDGED ITSELF.

HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT HAS KEPT FAITH WITH THE PEOPLE OF
NORTHERN IRELAND THROUGH THESE MURDEROUS YEARS. THE CONSTITUTION
ACT PROVIDES THAT IN NO EVENT WILL NORTHERN IRELAND OR ANY PART
OF IT CASE TO BE PART OF THE U.K. WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE
MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE OF NORTHERN IRELAND VOTING IN A POLL.
WE HAVE MAINTAINED THE SECURITY FORCES TO PROTECT ALL, REGARDLESS
OF POLITICS OR FAITH.

WE PLEDGED PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT FOR THOSE WILLING TO
COVER A WIDE SPECTRUM OF NORTHERN IRISH LIFE. THAT OPPORTUNITY
IS OPEN.

WE PLEDGED A PLEBISCITE ON THE BORDER. THAT HAS BEEN HELD AND
THE DECISION TAKEN. WE PLEDGED THE ABOLITION OF THE SPECIAL
POWERS ACT AND THE CONTROL OF EMERGENCY POWERS BY WESTMINISTER.
THAT HAS BEEN DONE.

WE PLEDGED THE REFORM OF JUDICIAL PROCEDURES TO ENABLE THE CRIMINALS
TO BE BROUGHT MORE SPEEDILY AND MORE CERTAINLY TO JUSTICE.
THAT IS NOW THE LAW.

WE HAVE PLEDGED A CONFERENCE ON MATTERS OF COMMON INTEREST
TO THE NORTH AND SOUTH. THAT PLEDGE TOO WILL BE HONOURED.

THE REST NOW IS IN THE HANDS OF YOUR REPRESENTATIVES IN THE
ASSEMBLY.

LET US GO TO IT IN THE CAUSE OF RESTORING PEACE TO NORTHERN
IRELAND AND REBUILDING A FAIR AND PROSPEROUS FUTURE FOR HER
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PEOPLE.
PENBERTHY

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

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